REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated January 2, 2008. Claims 1 to 39 are pending. Claim 27 stands allowed. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1 to 26 and 28 to 39 in view of the remarks set forth below. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 to cover the cost of any fees due in connection with this Response.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-39 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-84 of U.S. Patent No. 6,634,945 issued to Glavich, et al. (hereafter "Glavich"). Applicant notes that this is inconsistent with the indication of allowance of claim 27. Additionally, Glavich does not qualify as prior art to the subject application for the reasons set forth below. Applicant questions whether a two-way obviousness test is required to substantiate this non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider this rejection.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-26 and 28-39 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Glavich.

With respect to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that Glavich does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). For Glavich to qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Glavich must have been filed before the invention of the subject matter defined by claims 1-26 and 28-39. The effective filing date of Glavich is September 28, 2001. The present application claims priority to, and is a continuation of, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/906,283 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,632,140; hereafter "parent"). The parent application was filed on July 16, 2001 and discloses the subject matter defined by claims 1-26 and 28-39.

Support for this claimed subject matter can be found in both the subject application and the parent application as set forth in at least the cited sections in the following chart.

Support in Subject Application	Support in Parent Application
Figures 1C to 1J, 3A, 3B, 6, and 7	Figures 1C to 1J, 3A, 3B, 6, and 7
Another aspect of the invention involves a casino gaming apparatus hosting a gaming activity having at least a standard mode of operation and a bonus mode of operation. The gaming apparatus includes a video screen to present a display grid having a plurality of display cells. A user interface is provided to allow the player to participate in the standard mode of operation, and in some embodiments in the bonus mode of operation as well. A processor is used to designate a plurality of the display cells as active display cells in response to a predetermined symbol combination occurring during the standard mode of operation. When in the bonus mode of operation, the processor randomly presents symbols in the active display cells, and deactivates the active display cells associated with a discontinue symbol. The processor, whether automatically or initiated by user input, repeats the random presentation of symbols and deactivation of the display cells associated with the discontinue symbols, until all, or alternatively a predetermined number, of the active display cells have been deactivated (paragraph [0014]).	Another aspect of the invention involves a casino gaming apparatus hosting a gaming activity having at least a standard mode of operation and a bonus mode of operation. The gaming apparatus includes a video screen to present a display grid having a plurality of display cells. A user interface is provided to allow the player to participate in the standard mode of operation, and in some embodiments in the bonus mode of operation as well. A processor is used to designate a plurality of the display cells as active display cells in response to a predetermined symbol combination occurring during the standard mode of operation. When in the bonus mode of operation, the processor randomly presents symbols in the active display cells, and deactivates the active display cells associated with a discontinue symbol. The processor, whether automatically or initiated by user input, repeats the random presentation of symbols and deactivation of the display cells associated with the discontinue symbols, until all, or alternatively a predetermined number, of the active display cells have been deactivated (col. 3, line 57 to col. 4, line 8).
In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, a method is provided for facilitating participation in a slot game on a slot machine. A display grid having multiple display segments is presented. Virtual reels, that are visible via the display	In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, a method is provided for facilitating participation in a slot game on a slot machine. A display grid having multiple display segments is presented. Virtual reels, that are visible via the display

segments, are electronically "spun." Each of the virtual reels includes symbols from a collective symbol set. This spinning action of the virtual reels is terminated, resulting in a random presentation of a symbol from the collective symbol set in each of the display segments. If a bonus event is invoked through determining whether a predetermined symbol combination is presented, then the display segments associated with the symbols of the predetermined symbol combination are distinguished from inactive display segments disassociated with the symbols of the predetermined symbol combination. While in bonus mode, a bonus virtual reel is spun in each of the active display segments. This spinning action of the bonus virtual reels is terminated, resulting in a random presentation of bonus symbols in each of the active display segments. Display segments associated with a stop-bonus symbol are deactivated and thereby eliminated from the rest of that bonus event. The bonus virtual reels continue to be spun, and display segments deactivated, until a predetermined number, such as all, of the active display segments have been deactivated. More particular embodiments include providing credit awards for at least some of the symbols presented in the display segments that are not stop-bonus symbols (paragraph [0015]).	segments, are electronically "spun." Each of the virtual reels includes symbols from a collective symbol set. This spinning action of the virtual reels is terminated, resulting in a random presentation of a symbol from the collective symbol set in each of the display segments. If a bonus event is invoked through determining whether a predetermined symbol combination is presented, then the display segments associated with the symbols of the predetermined symbol combination are distinguished from inactive display segments disassociated with the symbols of the predetermined symbol combination. While in bonus mode, a bonus virtual reel is spun in each of the active display segments. This spinning action of the bonus virtual reels is terminated, resulting in a random presentation of bonus symbols in each of the active display segments. Display segments associated with a stop-bonus symbol are deactivated and thereby eliminated from the rest of that bonus event. The bonus virtual reels continue to be spun, and display segments deactivated, until a predetermined number, such as all, of the active display segments have been deactivated. More particular embodiments include providing credit awards for at least some of the symbols presented in the display segments that are not stop-bonus symbols (col. 4, lines 9-34).
The display screen 300 also includes a bonus payout bar 362. The bonus payout bar 362 provides payout subtotals of predetermined active display segments of the bonus group 360. In the illustrated example, the bonus payout bar 362 is configured to provide payout subtotals for each active display segment, such that bonus payout bar sections 370, 372, 374, 376, and 378 provide subtotal payout accumulations for display segments 340,	The display screen 300 also includes a bonus payout bar 362. The bonus payout bar 362 provides payout subtotals of predetermined active display segments of the bonus group 360. In the illustrated example, the bonus payout bar 362 is configured to provide payout subtotals for each active display segment, such that bonus payout bar sections 370, 372, 374, 376, and 378 provide subtotal payout accumulations for display segments 340,

352, 354, 356, and 348 respectively. For example, if display segment 340 produces three continue-bonus symbols each having a payout value of twenty-five during three rounds of bonus activity, the bonus payout bar section 370 will reflect a subtotal accumulation of seventy-five credits. This subtotal accumulation will continue until each of the display segments of the entire bonus group has been eliminated through stop-bonus symbols (paragraph [0036]).	352, 354, 356, and 348 respectively. For example, if display segment 340 produces three continue-bonus symbols each having a payout value of twenty-five during three rounds of bonus activity, the bonus payout bar section 370 will reflect a subtotal accumulation of seventy-five credits. This subtotal accumulation will continue until each of the display segments of the entire bonus group has been eliminated through stop-bonus symbols (col. 12, line 62 to col. 13, line 10).

Accordingly, in view of the above cited sections of the parent application, the subject matter defined by independent claims 1, 24, 27, 34 and 35 is supported by the parent application. Glavich does not qualify as prior art for independent claims 1, 24, 27, 34 and 35.

Claims 2-23, 25-26, 28-33 and 36-39 depend from one of the independent claims 1, 24, 27 and 35. Glavich does not qualify as prior art for such dependent claims.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY _____

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